

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An image reading apparatus includes a transport path for guiding an original from an original tray to a reading position; a transport device for transporting the original toward a downstream side in a forward direction or toward an upstream side in a reverse direction; a reading device for reading the original at the reading position; a determining device for determining whether the original has a black and white image or color image; and a retreat path disposed at an upstream side of the reading position for retreating at least a part of the original from the transport path. After the determining device determines the original, the original is transported in the reverse direction to retreat it to the retreat path. Then, the original is transported to the reading position, so that the reading device reads the original in a reading mode according to a result of the determination.